

MOTION

St. Clair Avenue West Hydrant Relocation

Moved by: Councillor Mihevc

SUMMARY:

The businesses along the length of St. Clair Avenue West articulated very clearly during the St. Clair Transit Improvement EA that preserving and maximizing on street public parking was an important objective. They were furthermore given clear assurances that their request would be honoured. The key strategy to implement this objective was to move the hydrants where possible from mid-block locations to corners where parking was prohibited.

During the design plans of the projects, city engineers further reassured shareholders that hydrants were going to be moved. It was a surprise to all that when construction started in April 2009 that only a few hydrants were moved. As the councillor for the section of St. Clair between Bathurst and Winona, and after several mediations with senior staff at the city, I can report that a couple of hydrants were moved to the corners.

Most recently, construction deficiencies in front of 566 St. Clair require the sidewalk to be replaced. Coincidentally, this is a location where a mid-block hydrant exists. With the removal of the sidewalk from 566 to 570 St. Clair, it would be relatively easy for the hydrants to be shifted to the end of the block in front of 570 St. Clair.

I should note that in September 2009, TEYCC passed my motion (delegated) requesting a report on the relocation of this particular hydrant in front of 566 St. Clair. I requested the report to determine if payment in lieu of parking at a nearby site could be used to pay for the relocation, and if not, to identify the source of funding. To date, Transportation Services has not brought forward a report.

Technical Services and Transportation staff need to be directed to fix the problem that they have refused to address. This motion requests information with a view to correct a deficiency that has not been addressed and appears not to have the attention of appropriate city staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Given the sidewalk between 566 and 570 St. Clair is scheduled to be replaced in late February and early March, Technical Services staff take advantage of the opportunity to move the hydrant in front of 566 St. Clair Ave W to the corning of St. Clair and Kenwood Ave during this sidewalk replacement work. This would eliminate the need for yet another round of construction work on that portion of the sidewalk.

2. That the Transportation Department work with the Toronto Parking Authority to identify mid-block hydrants that can be moved to corners on St. Clair Ave W from Bathurst St to Gunns Rd in order to maximize on street public parking, and that a report on the matter come to committee for the May cycle of Council. Further, the report should include a strategy to have the work completed and to have it funded.